



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/091,213	03/04/2002	Marybeth Enright	ENRIGHT-101	6116

7590 09/02/2003
Robert K. Tendler
65 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02110

EXAMINER

SCOTT, JAMES R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2832

DATE MAILED: 09/02/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/091,213

Applicant(s)

MARYBETH ENRIGHT

Examiner

James R Scott

Art Unit

2832

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____. |
| 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,2,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,14 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chester. Note Figs. 1-3 and col. 1, lines 35-66. The switches may be connected either in series or parallel.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3,4; and 13 as grouped are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chester for the reasons advanced in the rejection of claims 1 and 12 considered with either Raborn or Feider et al. Chester teaches the use of two ignition switches mounted to a steering wheel column. The placement of the ignition switches on a panel or dashboard is taught to be old by Raborn noting figure 1 and dashboard 12 and also Feider et al noting figure 7, panel 150 and column 10, lines 63-67 which state that the panel 150 displays and houses ignition switches. Hence it is old in the prior art

to mount an ignition switch on a dashboard as suggested by Raborn and to use a plurality of ignition switches on a panel as suggested by Fieder et al.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made that the relocation of the Chester ignition switches to a dashboard or panel would have been a modification of structure incorporating the relocation of parts as suggested by Raborn or Fieder et al not rising to that level of unobviousness to be considered to be patentable invention.

Claims 11 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chester considered with Barry. Chester teaches the use of two opposing switches located on a steering column. Chester does not teach the use of an adjustable collar ring with an ignition switch.

Barry teaches that it is old to use a collar type support ring for an ignition switch noting ring 28. The switch at 24 is adapted to be operated by either the left or right hand. In fig. 3 the switch is operated from the right hand side of the column. If the figure 3 is inverted, the relocation of the steering wheel and the ring 28 provide a mounting for a left hand operated switch.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Chester plural ignition switch assembly to include an adjustable ignition switch for either left or right hand operation as suggested by BARRY in order to simplify the structural arrangement that is adaptable for drivers and their specific hand at a specific location with respect to the steering wheel column.

Summary

Claims 1-18 have been rejected.

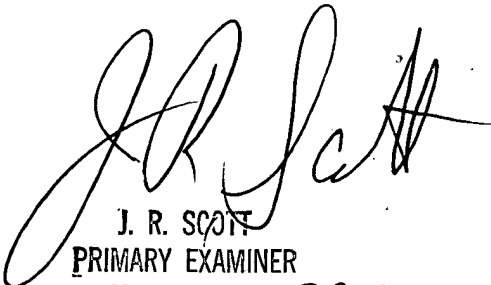
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R Scott whose telephone number is 703-308-2013. The examiner can normally be reached on any workday between 1-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin Enad can be reached on 703-308-7619. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3432 for regular communications and 703-305-1341 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1782.

JRScott: jrs

08/22/2003


J. R. SCOTT
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2832